

# ***Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council Meeting Minutes***

January 29, 6:30 pm

Highgrove Library: 530 Center St. Riverside, CA 92507

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call

Jeff Girod  
Kathryn Grimble  
Jennifer Grob  
Rachelle Roman  
Cristina Tejada

- IV. Motion to approve the minutes; minutes approved
- V. New Business

Jamison Cole  
Riverside County Code Officer

Cole briefly introduces herself. Opens it to comments:

- Comment that there is a motorhome on Center Street for days at a time. Another comment that there are several motorhomes. Cole says that it is legal for motorhomes to park on the street, but will look into it.
- Comment about trash in the orange groves adjacent to Center Street. Cole says she will look into it.
- Comment about cul de sac adjacent to Spring Street and homeless. Cole says effort is underway to count the homeless and apply for resources. Comment that the property is responsible for cleanup, but homeowner is unavailable.
- Question about timeline for release of the homeless count. Cole said it will be about four more days.
- Comment that the “no trespass” letter expires every year.
- Comment about boulders on Michigan Avenue to prevent homeless entering wash. Question if something similar can be done on Prospect Avenue. Cole says they are unable to block property because there needs to be access for fire.

- Resident has question about vacant property behind him. Moved a prefabricated home onto it with a septic drain. 210 Transit, northwest corner. Cole said it's a code issue and will look into it.
- Question about the benefit to community of new cannabis dispensary. Cole said it has been approved and gone through a process and will pay taxes just like other businesses/residences. Wendell Bugtai states that cannabis was approved in 2018 and Prop 64. Supervisor Spiegel inherited an approved ordinance when she took office. Bugtai mentions security measures, security on site, and various other measures that have to be adhered to by Prop 64. Reviewed by the planning commission and Board of Supervisors.
- Comment about an anticipated 400 customers per day and the limited parking at the new cannabis dispensary. Bugtai said there is additional leased area for parking.

Jeff Veik  
Riverside County Fire Division Chief

Fire station 19 fits into CalFire's Northwest division that includes Highgrove. Four battalion chiefs rotate through. Promises to be here and supports MAC group. Lived in Highgrove for more than 40 years, westside of 215. Went to Highgrove Elementary. Proud to be here. Fire station 19 built in 1994, plans to have station captain and crew attend next MAC meeting. One station out of 100 of regional Riverside stations, will reach out to neighboring areas and cities. Encourages folks to follow CalFire on social media, stop by and meet the station crew.

Justin Rowan  
Riverside County Sheriff Lieutenant

Responsibility includes Highgrove as part of large county area. Staffing is not what they want but they are building it back up.

Stats: Part 1 (reported to FBI for annual crime report including murder, rapes, theft) Rowan says Highgrove is "pretty safe" comparatively. Rowan shares statistics for January:

2 assaults, 3 burglaries, 1 grand theft, 2 robberies, 2 thefts from vehicles and 3 vehicle thefts. Both robberies involved domestic disputes. Male stole the purse of the female. Business break-ins.

Opens it to comments:

- Question if he comes out every day. Rowan does not, he says. Follow-up about response time when calling 911. Rowan says it's triaged, similar to a hospital. Prioritized by severity. Comment that response times seem longer

than historically. Rowan says response times vary by where the officers are. Rowan says staffing will increase and that should reduce response times.

- Wendell Bugtai comments that Tuesday's Board meeting, approved to bring Sheriff's "inhouse" and break off from EDA. Says it will take about one year.
- Rowan says one of the sheriff's priorities is increasing staff and restructuring. Get sheriff's out of the jail and onto the streets.
- Questions about timeline. Bugtai says analysis will take place. This is the first step.
- Question about former "sub station" on Palmyrita that has been removed. Rowan says he is not familiar with the location. Comment that it was an Old Cal ID station used for fingerprinting.
- Question about area 92507 and Area 92503 being big enough to have a dedicated deputy. Bugtai will look into the ratio of residents to law enforcement.
- Comment that city and law enforcement officials may benefit from a first-hand tour of the amount of homes that are planned for Spring Mountain Ranch. A similar tour was taken by RUSD officials that led to purchase of land on Spring Street for new elementary school. Bugtai notes that a tour can be scheduled for local leadership and law enforcement.
- Comment about the amount of homelessness next to gas station and Subway. Rowan said it's not illegal to be homeless, but they can look into drug and alcohol abuse. Also issues with access to private property and adherence to law.
- Comment that local Chevron is still willing to help relocate homeless. Rowan says the solutions are sometimes only temporary. Countywide homeless team works to offer services.
- Concerns about children walking to Highgrove Elementary approached by homeless.
- Public thank you for the increased patrols that have cut down on the double parking.
- Bugtai comments that they discovered that city agencies are working in silos. Spiegel is working to create a larger committee to address the homeless issue. Teamed up with Manny Perez, another supervisor, to address this from a regional standpoint.
- Comment that there is a rumor that someone is shooting burros. Cole said it is an ongoing issue. Comment that animal control should be called first to remove dead animals.
- Comment about street racing, question if there is a task force to address the issue. Rowan says they don't have a task force. CHP is responsible for street racing and traffic-related crimes.
- Question where 911 calls are dispatched. Rowan says depending on call load, calls can go to either the desert side or Riverside.

## VI. Public Comments

- Jim McKey: What do we need to do to get the assessment for a full-time sheriff in Highgrove removed. Bugtai says we can get the Economic Development Agency to attend a future MAC meeting.
- Dale Arrietta: Why did it take so long for it to be brought to attention. Bugtai refers it to the Economic Development Agency.
- Barney Barnett: Highgrove News will have a printed ballot on the front of its next issue regarding the sheriff issue. Highgrove Day on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, calls for volunteers. Car shows, vendors and music.
- Dina Garrett: Celebration of our town. All the proceeds from Highgrove Day go to having the next Highgrove Day. Opportunity to celebrate our town. Past events included free In-N-Out, arts and crafts for the kids.
- Cecilia: Graffiti control. Something to bring us together. Bugtai says EDA can address it.
- Sonny: Requests that an attorney be present to address CSA. Asks when the next MAC meeting is to be scheduled. Bugtai says litigation ongoing but the attorney can provide an update.
- Debbie: Past conversations have included revote for CSA/EDA to allocate more money. Bugtai defers to EDA.
- Bobby: Realtor asks how the MAC was selected, is it representative of all areas of Highgrove. Bugtai says extensive advertising was done, residents were interviewed, most applicants were from Spring Mountain Ranch. Bugtai says MAC members were chosen by qualifications.
- Mark Miles: Met with Karen Spiegel in 2019, main concern is the train area, needed a bridge, preventing fire trucks from responding, playground area near Highgrove Park is not up to standard, lack of stop signs, compared to the neighborhoods in Spring Mountain Ranch that have more stop signs.
- Cecilia: Tavaglione's office said that an assessment was made and additional traffic measures were not needed.
- Ishmael: Spring Mountain Ranch residents have stop signs but they are not effective. Says it is a valid question about what the county is doing to help the older areas of Highgrove.
- Art Bernal: Can't we have meetings more often than once every 3 months.
- David Fanning: EDA, Has lived 3 years in Spring Mountain Ranch, we pay for street sweeping, has only seen street sweeping 3 times.
- Barney Barnett: Get a flyer for Highgrove Day.

## VII. Future Agenda Items:

- Getting a ballot vote to remove the deputy assessment.
- Have more MAC meetings.
- MAC committee can share information with Highgrove Happenings.
- Why is there a 3-minute time limit on public comments?
- Future status update about the new RUSD school on Spring Street.

- County update on plans to improve the older part of Highgrove.

VIII. Date of next meeting: April 29, 2020

IX. Cristina Tejada adjourns the meeting at approximately 8 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jeff Girod, Secretary

Minutes approved by: Highgrove MAC, October 28, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Girod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".